

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Reclamation Safety and Health Standards



Mission Statements

The U.S. Department of the Interior protects and manages the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage; provides scientific and other information about those resources; and honors its trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated Island Communities.

The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.

Foreword

A contemporary water management agency, the Bureau of Reclamation is the largest wholesale water supplier in the United States, with operations and facilities in the 17 Western States. Today, these facilities include 348 reservoirs with the capacity to store 245 million acre-feet of water. Reclamation projects supply one out of five western farmers with irrigation water for approximately 10 million farmland acres.

Reclamation facilities also provide water to about 31 million people for municipal and industrial uses. In addition, Reclamation is the Nation's second largest producer of hydroelectric power, generating more than 42 billion kilowatthours of energy each year from 58 hydroelectric powerplants. Its facilities also provide substantial flood control, recreation, and fish and wildlife benefits.

Though the times and needs have changed, one goal has remained constant—Reclamation is committed to maintaining a safe place for employees, visitors, and the public. Procedures, processes, and regulations have changed with technology, but the commitment and value of safety excellence has not. This mission requires safety to be at the forefront of every job, in all phases of planning and operations, and of highest priority at all times. Excellence in safety is a core value that must be consistently emphasized and maintained.

Most activities involve risk, but using a systematic process of identifying hazards, developing and implementing countermeasures, and evaluating and overseeing the activity reduces accident potential. The Reclamation Safety and Health Standards, the foundation of the safety program, will be used for all activities in Reclamation to perform work safely and maintain safe working conditions.

By incorporating safe work procedures in all activities, safety becomes more than mere compliance. Safety is a lifetime value.

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